

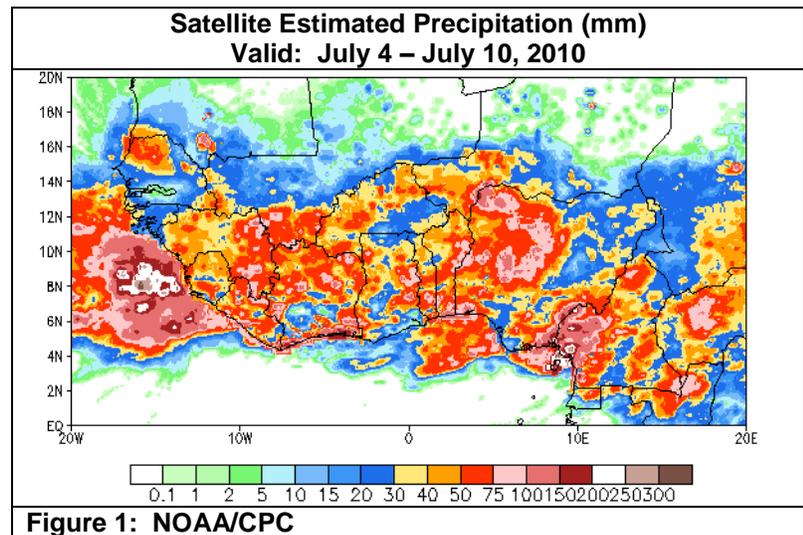
- High rainfall totals across West Africa and western Ethiopia have led to seasonal rainfall surpluses which are expected to promote early season cropping activities.
- Continued low rainfall totals across northeastern and eastern Ethiopia have begun to negatively affect early season cropping activities.



Wide spread heavy rainfall in West Africa leads to rainfall surpluses.

During the last observation period, heavy rainfall fell across many parts of the Gulf of Guinea and Sahel Countries. The Gulf of Guinea countries, in general, received 10-20mm higher rainfall totals than the preceding week. In particular, Sierra Leone and Liberia experienced 30-40mm higher rainfall totals than the past week and coastal Guinea continued to receive higher rainfall amounts helping ease the deficit in the region. Considerably heavy rainfall over northwest Nigeria, in excess of 75mm in the past week, also helped to turn persistent rainfall deficits in the region into rainfall surpluses (**Figure 1**). Northeast Nigeria, however, continued to experience a lack of heavy rainfall which is expected to strengthen seasonal moisture deficits.

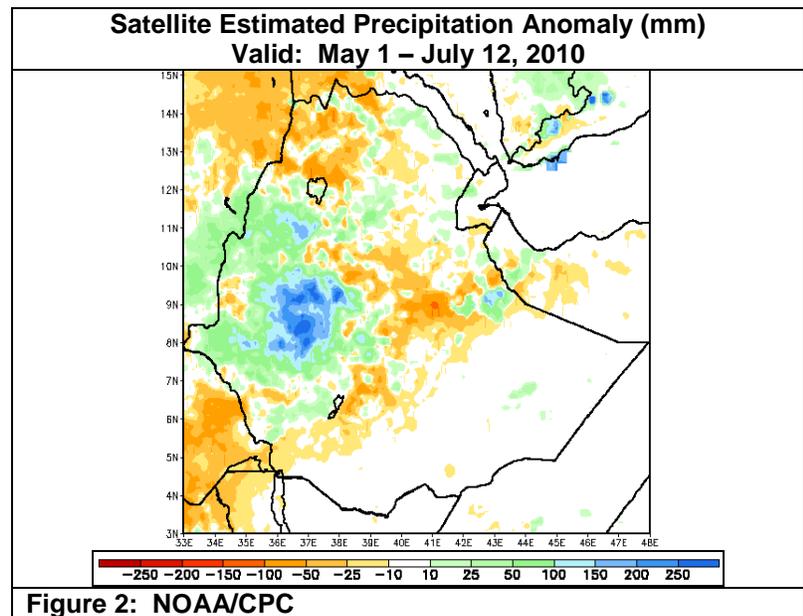
Another week of heavy rainfall is predicted by the forecast models for West Africa, especially over southern Sahel Countries.



Delayed start to the Meher season in northeastern and eastern Ethiopia

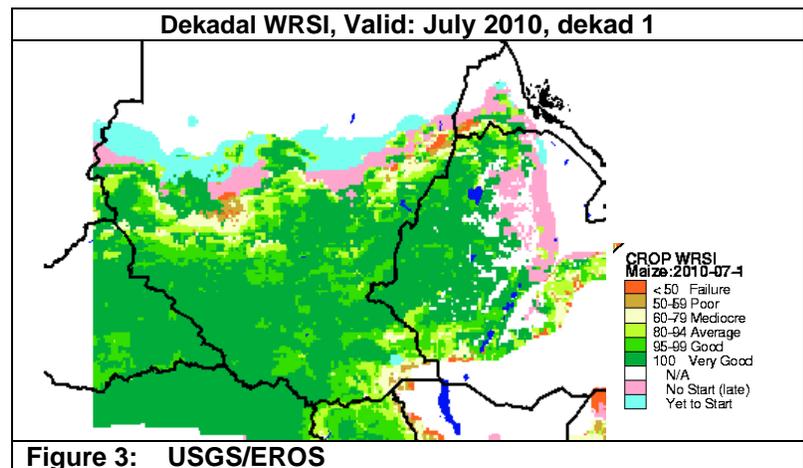
During the last seven days, areas in western Ethiopia and Sudan have seen heavy rainfall in amounts in excess of 30mm with particularly high totals (in excess of 50mm) seen in western Oromiya region of Ethiopia. This marks another week where rainfall was above-average in these areas. Overall western Ethiopia saw a further eastward extent to heavy rains in excess of 40mm into the eastern Amhara and central Oromiya regions of Ethiopia when compared to last week. However, rains over the Tigray region of Ethiopia were 20mm less than those experienced the week before. Rainfall over eastern Oromiya remained low for another week.

Seasonal rainfall anomalies across northern and eastern Ethiopia showed increasing negative anomalies while portions of western Ethiopia continued to show a large rainfall surplus. In particular, the Tigray, northern Amhara and portions of eastern Oromiya regions of Ethiopia have continued to experience negative rainfall anomalies larger than 50mm (**Figure 2**).



The WRSI during the first dekad of July depicts very good crop conditions over large portions of Sudan, Ethiopia and Uganda. However, North Kordofan, southern portions of North Darfur and portions of Gedaref and Kassala regions of Sudan are experiencing a late start for early season cropping activities. An area of growing concern lies across the eastern Tigray, Amhara, western Afar and portions of eastern Oromiya regions of Ethiopia due to an early end to the Belg season combined with a late start to the Meher season (**Figure 3**). Field reports also confirmed wilting of long cycle crops in some of these areas.

Rainfall forecasts for the coming week indicate heavy rainfall for western and northwestern portions of Ethiopia and an increased chance of heavy rain over central Sudan.



Note: The hazards assessment map on page 1 is based on current weather/climate information and short and medium range weather forecasts (up to 1 week). It assesses their potential impact on crop and pasture conditions. Shaded polygons are added in areas where anomalous conditions have been observed. The boundaries of these polygons are only approximate at this continental scale. This product does not reflect long range seasonal climate forecasts or indicate current or projected food security conditions.

FEWS NET is a USAID-funded activity whose purpose is to provide objective information about food security conditions. Its views are not necessarily reflective of those of USAID or the U.S. Government. The FEWS NET weather hazards assessment process and products include participation by FEWS NET field and home offices, NOAA-CPC, USGS, USDA, NASA, and a number of other national and regional organizations in the countries concerned. Questions or comments about this product may be directed to Wassila.Thiaw@noaa.gov or 1-301-763-8000 x7566. Questions about the USAID FEWSNET activity may be directed to Gary Eilerts, USAID Program Manager for FEWSNET, 1-202-219-0500 or geilerts@usaid.gov.